

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

31396 U.S. PRO
09/811550

03/20/01

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure provisions of 37 CFR §1.56, there is hereby provided certain information which the Examiner may consider material to the examination of the subject U.S. patent application. It is requested that the Examiner make this information of record if it is deemed material to the examination of the subject application.

1. Enclosures accompanying this Information Disclosure Statement are:
 - 1a. Form PTO-1449.
 - 1b. Copies of IDS citations.
 - 1c. An English language copy of search report(s) from a counterpart foreign application or a PCT International Search Report.
 - 1d. English language translation (complete or relevant portion(s)) attached to each non-English language publication.
 - 1e. Explanations of Relevancy of References (ATTACHMENT 1(e), hereto) for providing a concise explanation of each non-English publication.
 - 1f. List of Copending Applications (ATTACHMENT 1(f), hereto).
 - 1g. List of Additional Submitted Documents (ATTACHMENT 1(g), hereto).
2. In accordance with 37 CFR §1.98, a concise explanation of what is presently understood to be the relevance of each non-English language publication is:

(Check appropriate Items 2a, 2b, 2c and/or 2d)

2a. [] satisfied because all non-English language publications were cited on the enclosed English language copy of the PCT International Search Report or the search report from a counterpart foreign application indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign office. (See U.S. Patent & Trademark Office's authorization in the Federal Register, Vol. 57, No. 12, January 17, 1992, at page 2031 (Reply to Comment 68).)

2b. [] set forth in the application.

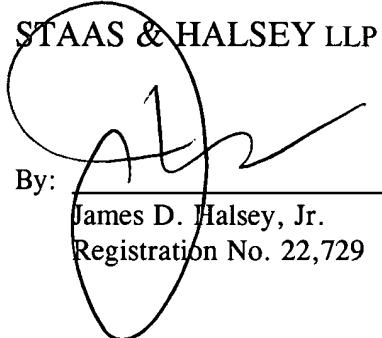
2c. [X] satisfied because an English language translation (complete or relevant portion(s)) is attached to each non-English language publication.

2d. [] enclosed as Attachment 1(e), hereto.

3. No admission is made that the information cited in this Statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability nor a representation that a search has been made (other than search report(s) from a counterpart foreign application or a PCT International Search Report, if submitted herewith). 37 CFR §§ 1.97(g) and (h).

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 3/10/98
700 Eleventh Street, N.W., Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20001
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501

STAAS & HALSEY LLP
By: 
James D. Halsey, Jr.
Registration No. 22,729

FORM PTO-1449	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 1405.1039	APPLICATION NO. To be Assigned
LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>			FIRST NAMED INVENTOR Hideyuki HIRANO, et al.	
			FILING DATE March 20, 2001	GROUP ART UNIT To be Assigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
	AA						
	AB						
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						

10998 U.S. PTO
09/03/2001
811550
03/20/01

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
	AG	10-294726	11/04/1998	JAPAN			X
	AH	11-232779	08/27/1999	JAPAN			X
	AI						
	AJ						
	AK						
	AL						

OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	AM	
--	----	--

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
----------	-----------------

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.